PARISH CHURCH OF ST MARY, PENWORTHAM

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PARISH CHURCH OF ST MARY, PENWORTHAM

# THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2011

## 1. PARISH MAKE UP AND LOCATION

The Parish of Penwortham St Mary is within the South Ribble Borough Council and Penwortham Town Council areas. Revised local authority Ward boundaries took effect from 1st May, 2003 so the Parish now consists of the whole of Howick / Priory Ward as well as Whitefield Ward and that part of Broad Oak Ward which lies to the north and west of the Penwortham Bypass from Booth's roundabout to the River Ribble. The population of the Parish according to the 2001 census is 11,121. There are no results out yet for the 2011 census (expected September 2012). The Parish is in the Leyland Deanery which is part of the Blackburn Diocese. The Church is situated on the north-eastern perimeter of the Parish, whilst the Church Hall is located over half a mile away in the centre of the Parish adjacent to the Vicarage. There are two Church of England Primary Schools within the Parish (Cop Lane and Howick) with a full complement of Foundation Governors from our Church on each Governing body. One school is situated on the southern boundary, whilst the other is on the western extremity of the Parish. There is an excellent relationship between both schools and the Church. Hutton Church of England Grammar School is situated in the neighbouring parish of Longton but a significant number of children from our Parish opt to go this school for their secondary education.

## 2. AIM

Our aim is "to co-operate with the Minister in promoting in the Parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelical, social and ecumenical".

## 3. MISSION STATEMENT

- We, the people of Saint Mary's Parish Church, Penwortham, seek, by God's grace, to develop further our Christian fellowship, so that all feel welcome and able to respond to God's love in a real and responsible way.
- Along with our fellow Christians in this area, we aim to share with those who live around us, the message of hope in the love of God and the power of forgiveness.
- We will actively pursue these aims guided, supported and strengthened by the prayers of the Church.

## 4. MEMBERSHIP OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (PCC)

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is the managing body of the Parish and its members are either ex-officio, namely the Incumbent, Curate and Churchwardens or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. The PCC is a Charity with Excepted Status given by the Charity Commissioners. The under-mentioned people are members of the PCC from 10th April 2011 to 29th April, 2012

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Incumbent** | The Rev'd. Chris Nelson | Vicar & Chairman, ex officio Foundation Governor Cop Lane & Howick |
| ***Curate:*** | The Rev'd. Angela Wynne | NSM Curate & Chair of Children's Ministry Committee (to 11th July 2011) |
| ***Wardens:*** | *David Thornton | Also Vice Chairman, Deanery Synod Rep, Church Hall Manager, Chair (to 8th November) Vice Chair (from 8th November) of Howick Primary School & Governor of Cop Lane Primary School & member of Safe from Harm Com. |
| | James Barton | Also co-ordinator with 6th Penwortham Scout Group & IT Adviser |

****Elected Representatives on the Deanery Synod):*** *(maximum of 4 representatives based on Church Electoral Roll)*

| | |
|---|---|
| Jean Moulding | Also Parish Electoral Roll Officer |

***Other Parish Elected Members: 3 year period*** *(maximum of 15 members based on Church Electoral Roll)*

| | |
|---|---|
| Iris Boyne | Also the Flower Secretary |
| Emma Jenkins | Also on Children's Ministry Committee |
| Iain Jenkins | PCC Secretary - Foundation Governor – Cop Lane School, Web Master |
| Hazel Henebury | Under 18's Co-ordinator & Chair of Children's Ministry Committee |
| John Kay | Foundation Governor – Howick Primary School |
| Joan Kitchener | Also Hall Bookings Secretary |
| Peter Moore | Also Health & Safety Officer (until 18th August 2011) |
| Jacqui Nelson | Also Readers list co-ordinator & Open Church coordinator & Archivist |
| Mary Robinson | Also Gift aid co-ordinator & Server |
| Julie Harrison | Chair of Social & Fund Raising Committee & link with Dramatic Society |
| David Tuke | Treasurer |
| Rachel Tuke | PCC Minute Secretary & Traid Craft co-ordinator |
| Jenny Williams | Also on Children's Ministry Committee |
| Wendy Wiggans | Safe from Harm Committee & Children's Ministry Committee |

## 5. MEETINGS OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (PCC)

There were 9 regular meetings of the PCC throughout 2011. The average attendance was 69% with only one occasion when 9 members were absent giving a 50% attendance. 15 out of 18 members were present on another occasion amounting to an 83% attendance. The PCC membership, and its' various sub committees, are shown below:-

## 6. MAKE UP OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL*(as at 31st December 2011) (elected until the 2012 APCM on 29.4.12)*

***Ex Officio:***

Clergy (total 1) — Rev'd. Chris Nelson (Vicar)

Churchwardens (total 2) — David Thornton, James Barton

***Deanery Synod: (4 places based on the size of the electoral roll - elected every 3 years - next at APCM 2014)***

Jean Moulding, David Thornton, (still 2 vacancies to be filled)

***Elected representatives: (Total of 15 places - based on the size of the electoral roll) (one vacancy 2011/2012)***

NOTE: Each member is elected for three years and can be re-elected for a further 3 year term after which they CANNOT be an elected representative until a further year has elapsed (Church Representation Rules).

Details of each elected member, together with their term of office, are shown below:-

| Year | Term | Name | Observation |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3 in 2009 | 2nd Term | Joan Kitchener | Will have to stand down at the 2012 APCM |
| | 1st Term | Julie Harrison | Can be re-elected for a 2nd term at the 2012 APCM |
| | 1st Term | Rachel Tuke | Can be re-elected for a 2nd term at the 2012 APCM |
| 6 in 2010 | 2nd Term | Jacqui Nelson | Will have to stand down at the 2013 APCM |
| | 2nd Term | Hazel Henebury | Will have to stand down at the 2013 APCM |
| | 2nd Term | Peter Moore | Will have to stand down at the 2013 APCM |
| | 1st Term | John Kay | Can be re-elected for a 2nd term at the 2013 APCM |
| | 1st Term | David Tuke | Can be re-elected for a 2nd term at the 2013 APCM |
| | 1st Term | Jenny Williams | Can be re-elected for a 2nd term at the 2013 APCM |
| 5 in 2011 | 2nd Term | Iris Boyne | Can be re-elected for a 2nd term at the 2014 APCM |
| | 2nd Term | Mary Robinson | Can be re-elected for a 2nd term at the 2014 APCM |
| | 1st Term | Emma Jenkins | Can be re-elected for a 2nd term at the 2014 APCM |
| | 1st Term | Wendy Wiggans | Can be re-elected for a 2nd term at the 2014 APCM |
| | 1st Term | Iain Jenkins | Can be re-elected for a 2nd term at the 2014 APCM |
| Total = 14 with 1 vacancy | | | |

This means that at the 2012 APCM, there will be 4 vacancies with Joan Kitchener having to stand down as she has completed her second 3 year term of office and can't stand again for election onto the PCC until the 2013 APCM. However Julie Harrison and Rachel Tuke can be re-elected if they wish to stand as they have only completed their first 3 year term of office. Anne Forshaw and Beryl Rhodes who both had to stand down at the 2011 APCM, are now entitled to stand for election if they so wish.

## 7. COMMITTEES OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (PCC)

The PCC operates through a number of committees, all of which report back to the next full PCC meeting. They are: -

**Standing Committee:**

This is the only committee required by law. It has power to transact any urgent business of the PCC between its meetings subject to any directions given by the Council. The Vicar, three Churchwardens,

**Financial Management Committee**

Oversees the general financial dimension of the work of St Mary's by monitoring income and expenditure, budgeting & preparation of annual accounts in compliance with statutory requirements, Gift Aid, and quarterly management reports. The membership of this committee consists of the clergy, churchwardens, treasurer and gift aid co-ordinator and only meets as and when necessary.

**Social & Fund Raising Committee**

Arranges a variety of events, which appeal to a wide audience of both parishioners and others in the community.

**Church Hall Committee**

Manages the running of the Church Hall promoting its maximum use for both parochial and non-parochial lets.

**Safe from Harm Committee**

Reviews the Parish Policy from time to time and ratifies any adult volunteers working with young people and vulnerable adults after being vetted through checks made by the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB).

**Children's Ministry Committee**

Looks to the welfare and consideration of children & parents involved in the church. Constantly reviewing to ensure the Parish retains its' "Diocesan Child Friendly Award".

**Ecumenical Committee**

Arranges, with the other seven churches of all denominations in Penwortham, events such as prayers, processions and fund raising to demonstrate Christian unity.

## *8.* CHURCH ATTENDANCE

There are 249 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll, 45 of whom are non-resident in the parish. The roll is revised annually. In 2010, there were also 252 on the roll - 45 of whom were non-residential.

There are two services every Sunday. Up to Sunday 12th June we held all church services in our Church Hall due to the re-ordering at Church. On Sunday 19th June, 2011 we celebrated our return to church having which we had vacated on Sunday 20th September, 2009. The average attendance counted throughout the year was 103 (102 in 2010). This was made up of 89 adults (91 in 2010) and 14 under the age of 16 years (11 in 2010). This average weekly number increased by some 21 on the second Sunday of each month when the uniformed youth organizations attended at Church. At the Parade

Service in October, which was also Harvest Sunday, there were 41 children and 142 adults in attendance. The following Sunday, The Bishop of Blackburn confirmed 15 young people and 3 adults in church. On this occasion there were 51 children and 139 adults present.

The average church attendance on Sundays goes up at the two principal Christian festivals. Some 159 (157 in 2010) attended Easter Day celebrations at the Church Hall. Some 169 (152 in 2010) attended at the Church on either Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. The actual numbers of communicants were 128 at Easter (139 in 2010) and 137 (91 in 2010) over the Christmas period. The increased number at Christmas was probably due to being back in Church.

There were 32 baptisms which included 1 adult (11 in 2010); 8 weddings (6 in 2010) and 15 funerals (9 in 2010) with 4 additional services conducted at a crematorium by our Vicar without a service in church beforehand (10 in 2010). True comparisons can't be made because most of these services, up to the church reopening at the end of June, were conducted by our Vicar at a neighbouring church since our Church Hall was not suitable for such services.

## 9. CHURCH AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS

The new church accounting policies require that all "church affiliated organizations", which are not part of a national body, must submit independently examined accounts to the PCC this being their parent body. Their accounts must be, and were, for the same 12 month period as that of the PCC i.e. the calendar year 1st January to 31st December. As far as our Parish is concerned, the "church affiliated organizations" are Junior Church, and the Euphoria Music Group. Audited accounts for 2011 are held by the Treasurers on behalf of the PCC but do not form part of the audited statement of accounts of the PCC. Each affiliated body performs a role and is financed as follows:-

### Junior Church

An annual grant from the PCC of up to £250 to provide reading materials for the leaders and craft materials for the children aged between 4 and 11yrs old.

### Euphoria

This is a music group instigated by young people within the parish assisted by adults and receives financial support from the church up to the sum of £250 each year. They provide contemporary and traditional music at some of the Parade services on the 2nd Sunday of the month. They also perform at the Christingle Service and on other special occasions.

# REVIEW OF CHURCH ACTIVITIES IN 2011 (with updates to 5th April, 2012)

## 1. BACKGROUND

Much of the previous year's deliberations have centred on the fabric of the church building and how we could both maintain this and attract more people to come to church and worship in a way they felt

comfortable, both literally and metaphorically! We had reached the crossroads and if we had not gone down the correct road with the total support and commitment both in service (time and talents) as well as in financial terms, then the Parish of St Mary would have withered and decayed and our beautiful Grade II* listed building, with its 14th century chancel and 15th century tower, would have had to close.

Foremost in our minds had been our Parish Aim and Mission Statement. Although detailed on page A, both are shown below so everybody can appreciate why we have moved forward along what we believed was the correct road.

**Aim:**

"*to co-operate with the Minister in promoting in the Parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelical, social and ecumenical".*

**Mission Statement:**

**"***We, the people of Saint Mary's Parish Church, Penwortham, seek by God's grace, to develop further our Christian fellowship, so that all feel welcome and able to respond to God's love in a real and responsible way".*

*"Along with our fellow Christians in this area, we aim to share with those who live around us, the message of hope in the love of God and the power of forgiveness"*

*"We will actively pursue these aims guided, supported and strengthened by the prayers of the Church".*

In addition, we were encouraged and supported by the Archdeacon of Blackburn who made a formal visit in 2003 and part of his written report stated:-

*"I was also very pleased to see that you were looking into the redevelopment of the interior of your church and doing so with the help of Richard Giles' book 'Re-pitching the Tent'. It is very important that we do not simply do a modernization of our church without knowing the theological aspect of it. I wish you well".*

## 2. RE-FURBISHMENT & RE-ORDERING OF THE CHURCH

**Background**

Our journey to re-order the church started in earnest in 2004 and the first five years' progress, sometimes one step forward and two back, have been set out in detail in previous annual reports. Only developments since we moved out of church in September 2009 and up to our return in June 2011 are detailed below. However, details of how we have funded the project from the start and how we have continued to fund it are shown in full below due to the totally unforeseen additional expenses which subsequently came to light.

**Funding the Project (July 2008 onwards)**

At our PCC meeting in July, 2008 concern was expressed that if the project was to go ahead as planned with a start date in October 2009, then additional funding would be needed to pay for the re-ordering

and to carry out other essential maintenance work without going for a loan. It was felt that an additional £50,000 would be necessary. To this end a small fund raising group was formed. Frank and Brenda Kendall, having been involved in a similar fund raising project in their previous parish, volunteered to give us the benefit of their experiences particularly in preparing a parish brochure and the wording for applications for grants from charitable trusts etc. Following a number of meetings, a parish brochure was circulated to all parishioners both those who attended church as well as those who received the Parish Magazine. A pledge service was held in October 2008. A separate Development Fund account was opened and over £30,000 was donated for which the Parish was very grateful. Following an application made, a grant from the Garfield Weston Foundation in the sum of £5,000 was received as part of the expenses to re-order the church.

It was with sadness that in October, 2008 Harry Thorpe, our Verger for very many years, passed away in his sleep at his home in the Broadgate area of Preston. Harry was a single man and had lived in the family home all his 88 years and on his own since his mother died in 1973. He had no surviving relatives but it was established, after his death, that he had made a will a few years earlier leaving his home and possessions to *"The Vicar and Churchwardens at Penwortham St Mary's"* without any stipulations as to what the money should be used for. His personal effects and artefacts were the subject of table top sale on 18th April 2009 when over £1,050 was made which was in addition to the monies raised from the sale of his car. The beneficiaries decided to put the house on the market once the contents had been cleared. It finally realized the sum of £59,000 with the net profit being in the region of £54,000. The beneficiaries also decided that all proceeds should go into a restricted fund for the re-ordering of the church which all felt was what Harry would have wished. Together with another significant bequest received in 2009, it enabled us to finance the project without the need for a loan – this having been the PCC's intentions right from the start of this project.

**Vacating Church and its hidden mysteries revealed:**

Our last service in Church was on Sunday 20th September 2009 and for the following two weeks, a small band of parishioners worked solidly preparing the church for the contractors to start work on Monday 5th October 2009. The organ console was disconnected – no mean feat as over 500 wires had to be capped and marked so the organ could be re-connected on our return to church. One of the Churchwardens still has the church organ console stored in his heated garage!! The very substantial wooden platform in the sanctuary was taken up by parishioners and removed from the church. The pews and cast iron radiators were sold to contractors who removed them from the church.

All the furnishings were stacked in the choir vestry with only the essential artefacts required for church services taken to the Hall where all church services were held between Thursday 24th September 2009 until we returned to Church on Sunday 19th June 2011. This meant that a scheduled 19 week project last over 21 months!! The saga of this re-ordering is detailed below.

The Contractors duly started on time and everything progressed as planned until the flooring in the nave started to be removed. Numerous graves were found in the main nave as well as in both the south and north transepts. In addition two crypts in the main nave were discovered. This was a complete surprise and shock and could not have been foreseen as all the original historical records were

destroyed by fire at the church in the 1850's before being sent to the diocesan offices. All work had to stop and the archaeologist, who had been employed for five days, as a watching brief, had his brief significantly changed and expanded. For eight weeks, three archaeologists painstakingly hand dug out the channels where reinforced concrete would be later constructed and installed for the new floor.

The larger of the two crypts is sited underneath where the pulpit had been installed. It runs in a north / south direction. The crypt had an arched dome of hand-made Victoria bricks and revealed four lead coffins and the name plates thereon showed that they were all members of the Rawstorne family who have a long historical connection with the church. This continues today with our current Patron being Alicia Rawstorne (now married to Don Wild). Our Patron said that neither she nor any of her immediate family was aware exactly where their ancestors had been buried.

The smaller crypt was discovered close to the West Door and ran in an east / west direction and contained one lead coffin with the name plate Anne Marshall thereon – she being related by marriage to the Rawstorne family. Her coffin was transferred to be with her ancestors in the larger Rawstorne Crypt. It was decided that this smaller crypt would be filled in as it then served no useful purpose and the base of which was totally immersed in water.

Numerous other bones were found scattered across the whole of the nave area with a charnel pit being discovered near to the west door in the centre of the nave. The loose remains were removed, cleaned, catalogued and boxed by the archaeologists and are now in the larger crypt with the Rawstorne ancestors. Access can be made into this crypt, if absolutely necessary, as no under floor heating has been installed at this location. The stone stabs could be removed but there are no plans for this to happen as we have plenty of documentary evidence of the contents of the crypt together with photographs.

A very detailed report, together with photographs of everything that was discovered together with plans, was produced by Oxford North Archaeology but the total cost of having to employ these archaeologists was in the regions of £30,000!! We had not budgeted for this nor could we have foreseen what was discovered in the nave.

**Changes forced upon us due to the discovery of these hidden mysteries**

The original plan had been to install the floor on a concrete base as we had no reason to suspect that the ground was unstable. Given what was found, there had to be drawn up a fresh design based on piles being driven into the ground supporting reinforced concrete upon which a suspended floor would be installed followed by the under floor heating elements over which York type stone would be placed. A new plan was completed and following a number of visits by the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) to the church, the faculty had to be varied and after some considerable time was approved. The additional cost incurred by the archaeologists and the structural engineer in the designing of a revised suspended floor and the extra materials which had to be purchased, amounted to a further £70,000 which we had NOT budgeted for. The Archdeacon of Blackburn was able to obtain a grant of £10,000 but various avenues continued to be explored to overcome the remaining shortfall – all without success.

The PCC unanimously agreed that we had no alternative but to suspend payment of the Parish Share to enable us to fund the project and get back into church.

In December 2010, Pat Spriggs, one of our long time supporters of St Mary's, very sadly died. When her will was read, we were very touched in that she had left St Mary's church a large monetary legacy as well as her bungalow 177, Cop Lane. In addition, in January 2011 we received from the Inland Revenue VAT rebate of £30,779 due to the Vicar keeping meticulous receipts and submitting them to the Inland Revenue. This had been included in our calculations when we gave the go ahead for the project. This boost in funds enabled us not only to pay for the chairs (see next paragraph) but also to complete the re-decorating of the church before we returned in June 2011. In addition, we are now paying our 2012 Parish Share and have now paid off all outstanding instalments that had accrued in 2011. The amount of the 2010 Parish Share still outstanding is £46,771 and the Parish continues its' discussions with the Diocese about this matter.

**DAC rejection of our agreed type of chair**

The financial situation became much worse when the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) informed us that we would not be allowed to purchase the type of chair we wanted to have in our Church which the PCC had approved and which we were led to believe had been approved by the DAC. The cost of these 150 chairs had been budgeted at £8,000 at the start of the project. The DAC stated that the chair was not in keeping with a Grade 2* listed building so considerable research had to be undertaken to find a chair which both the DAC and the PCC were happy with. In November 2010, such a chair was found and approved but the down side was that the cost would be in the region of £30,000 for 120 chairs without arm supports, 25 chairs with arm supports and the four trolleys needed to move them so the floor would not be damaged. Due to the considerable increase in the cost of purchasing chairs, it was agreed by the PCC in January 2011 that we should launch a chair appeal with the option for anybody paying sufficient to purchase a chair or chairs to have a small plaque affixed to the chair if they so wished. To date this appeal has been well supported. Parishioners and other church supporters have sponsored a chair or chairs and even one of the trolleys to the sum of £14,757.

## 3. DEVELOPMENTS IN 2011

**Installation of floor, under floor heating and stone slabs**

During 2011, the redesigned suspended floor was installed together with the under floor heating over which the York type stone was placed but this took time and once the stone slabs had been laid, there had to be a keeling period of 6 weeks when no one could walk over the floor to allow everything to harden up and settle.

**Replacement of guttering, downspouts, water troughs & re-constructing of one churchyard footpath**

During the keeling time of the stone slabs, the contractors worked on the outside of the church installing new guttering and downspouts as well replacing all the water troughs at ground level. In addition the stone path was re-laid from the south porch to the "Y" junction leading to the Lych-gate.

**Lead Thieves**

During the course of 2009 and 2010, lead thieves targeted our church four times. We are not alone and despite the lead being "smartwatered" (an invisible dye); there were criminal scrap metal dealers who were still prepared to trade in this metal. Our diocese will NOT allow us to replace the lead with a lead substitute (Grade 2* listed building status again) and as we had exceeded our insurance level cover, we were therefore forced to take drastic measures at the beginning of 2011. We had additional lighting and four cameras installed which record movement when people got too close to the building at night time and which gives an audible message to say that you are being filmed. In additional we have had anti-vandal paint put on all the newly installed lead. On the strong advice of the police we have locked both the gates at the lychgate as well as the metal gates leading into the graveyard as lead thieves are still very active in the area. As a result we have created a new pedestrian access to the graveyard. Since taking this action, we have not been "hit" again. In July 2011, Ecclesiastical started to insure us for lead thefts as we had complied with all the crime prevention measures they had stipulated.

The lychgate entrance is still only opened when either the churchyard maintenance team are working there or when the church is actually open for visitors or services.

**Sound System**

During the course of the year, Audio Works from Lancaster, who prior to moving out had installed a new sound system, returned to install a new hearing loop system as well as enhancing the sound system by installing additional jack plugs and wiring to enable the sound deck to be installed at the back of church near the west door under the organ loft. Remote control of the CD player is really a boon particularly for the Vicar who can start and stop a CD remotely which is necessary at many funerals. Dave Rhodes, our music group (Euphoria) maestro, purchased microphones and other equipment when he visited China and this has also enhanced music and speech reproduction in church. Money from the restricted fund in memory of Hilda Heald was used to complete this asset. Thanks to you all.

**Re-plastering & re-painting of the Church**

During the course of 2010, considerable dampness caused the roofs in the south and north transepts to become almost black with a mould like substance and this had to be removed and the roofs re-painted before we could return to church. We knew that a certain amount of re-plastering of the walls would be necessary but due to the pile driving that was necessary when the floor foundations were installed, some more of the existing plaster had become loose. Again, because we are a grade 2* listed building, we were restricted as to the type of plaster we could use. It was apparent that before we could move back into church, this essential work would have to be carried out with some decorating being undertaken.

We sort guidance of the Diocesan Decorating & Fabric adviser who sits on the DAC and we followed to the letter his written advice. Unfortunately the plaster and paint were not compatible resulting in much more plastering having to be done at an additional cost of £6000! This work started at the end of March

2011 when the plaster above the arch linking the nave and chancel was replaced as well as the very high sections of the main nave on the north and south sides using fixed scaffolding. This was followed by significant areas of the north and south transept walls being re plastered or patched. It took over 4 weeks for the plaster to dry out. The fixed scaffolding was then used again to paint the higher wall areas in the nave with portable scaffolding being used to paint the lower sections afterwards.

Having consulted with the painters, we confirmed our planned dates of Friday 17th to Sunday 19th June 2011 to celebrate our return and the re-opening of our Church was viable!!

**Permanent visual record of our re-ordering**

A comprehensive report from Oxford North Archaeology (a copy of which is on display on our history table) contained some photographs of what they discovered. Apart from this we had two distinct sources of visual records.

One condition of the faculty (church planning consent) which allowed us to undertake this re-ordering, was that we had to produce photographic documentation at all stages of the re-ordering including visual records before the re-ordering started. A full set of the photographs had then to be sent to the Diocese for historical purposes. We were very fortunate that one of our PCC members, Peter Moore who is a very competent photographer, kindly volunteered to undertake this task and through him we have met this diocesan requirement. A selection of Peter's photographs showing the various stages of re-ordering, was put on a display board in church when we returned and has been much appreciated by all giving a pictorial snap shot of what we went through. Peter - thank you.

The second visual record was offered by two of our parishioners, George Bailey and Susan Greenhalgh. George is an independent film producer and his wife Susan had worked for the BBC in documentary productions. They offered to make a video documenting what was discovered under the nave and what had to be done to enable us to return to church. They offered their services free of charge and in May they showed the PCC their edited 28 minute video which was fascinating. The PCC unanimously agreed that copies of this video should be reproduced and sold to parishioners and others who were interested. An initial run of 100 copies of the DVD entitled *"A Moment in Time"* were purchased retailing at £9.99. We have now purchased a further 100 copies due to public demand. It was agreed by the PCC that complimentary copies would be given to all those involved in the re-ordering and this has been done. Nothing but very positive comments have been received from all who have their own copy. We must place on record publically, our thanks to George and Susan for giving of their time and talents without charge.

**Celebrations on our return to Church (Friday 17th – Sunday 19th June 2011)**

The Social & Fund Raising Committee organized our grand reopening weekend. There were a number of static displays including local businesses as well as our church schools, church organizations and historical artefacts relating to our Church. There was cheese and wine reception open to all but with specific invitations sent out to all companies and individuals who had been involved in any way with the re-ordering. Amongst others who attended, as a result of a specific invitation, were our local Member of

Parliament, the Mayor of Penwortham and some Town Councillors as well as former Vicars at St Mary's and representatives from our two church primary schools and Churches Together in Penwortham.

The DVD *"A Moment in Time"* was shown and received universal acclaim. On the Saturday afternoon there was a general invitation for parishioners and the public at large to come and enjoy a floral and photographic display followed by performances by our Organist Bill Henebury and our Church Bell ringers. Again the video was shown. In the evening, there was a short concert by the Elizabethan Singers followed by refreshments consisting of wine and nibbles. The second part of the evening was an illustrated talk by Ken Dagger on the Operettas of Gilbert & Sullivan. On the Sunday, prior to the 10.15am service, we had a peal of bells and during the service we had special music provided by our organist and our Music Group Euphoria to celebrate our return to church.

**Permanent static displays now in church**

**History Table .** Many historical documents had been filed away whilst we were out of church. On our return it was felt that they should be readily available for parishioners and others who visited when there was "Open Church" every Thursday between 10am and 3pm. Our Vicar's wife, Jacqui pulled together all our historical records and documents and a table was set up in the north transept which has caused a lot of interest. This has encouraged other people to bring their own historical documents and we are asking our more "mature" parishioners to identify people in some of the earlier photographs which have come to light.

**Fair Trade Table** We have been registered for some time as a Fairtrade Parish so prior to moving out from church, we had a Fair Trade table. On our return, Rachel Tuke volunteered to set us up again having had previous experience in a former parish. A catalogue was used for people to order one off items and this proved popular over the Christmas period. Significant orders were made for Fairtrade Easter eggs and the stall is proving again quite an attraction to parishioners and visitors alike.

**Cop Lane Primary School Display.** Cop Lane Church of England Primary School had a display on the weekend we re-opened in June 2011 and early in 2011 asked if they could use their display boards at the back of church to highlight the work the children were doing particularly in respect of religious education. The staff from school regularly attend church and change the display. Again this has caused interest to all who visit church.

**Junior Church Display.** Junior Church has continued to display their work and the board is regularly changed to update everybody on what they are doing. The leaders also set up the Christmas Nativity scene and Easter Garden to highlight these Christian festivals.

## 4. OUR CHURCH FAMILY (ie Parishioners and Clergy)

**OUR VICAR – Rev'd Chris Nelson:**

Apart from being our Vicar since January 2001, Chris was the Area Dean (previously known as the Rural Dean) for the Leyland Deanery for over 7 years. He resigned this position in early 2011 but agreed to cover the duties until his replacement was inducted later that year. The PCC, but more especially the Churchwardens, had become aware of the additional burdens and duties which an Area Dean had to

undertake particularly when other parishes in the Deanery did not have incumbents. In addition, the Vicar has in effect project managed the re-ordering of our church which had been very time consuming and stressful for the him in particular and the Standing Committee in general.

Now that both these additional burdens have finished, it has enabled the Vicar to concentrate more on his pastoral and religious duties within the Parish. This was very timely coming about just before our Curate left the Parish for pastures new (see next paragraph).

**OUR CURATE – Rev'd Angela Wynne**

As part of her training, our Curate Angela led a small working group on how we could attract more young people to attend church. She arranged a meeting in the Parish with Sue Witts, the Diocesan Children's Work Adviser. This included looking at what was available for children / young people in Penwortham and which of these are church related. Angela spoke about the Child Friendly Church Award Scheme and a self assessment form was completed by the PCC which identified where we needed to make improvements. The working group addressed the shortfalls and then met with Sue Witts again who stated that we had now fulfilled all the conditions to become a "Child Friendly Church". Details of this Award came through just before Angela has completed her four year secondment to us as a non stipendiary curate.

In May 2011, it was announced that Angela was to take up a post as an Associate Priest running Christ Church, Charnock Richard. Angela was therefore able to be part of our celebrations when we returned to Church over the weekend of 18th & 19th June. On Sunday 3rd July we said farewell to Angela with the Parish putting on a farewell spread in church after the morning service. A large contingent from St Mary's made the short journey to Charnock Richard 8 days later to see Angela inducted on Monday 11th July.

On Sunday 6th November we invited Angela back to St Mary's so she could see the presentation of the "Child Friendly Church Award" of which she had been a major driving force. Well done and thank you for everything you have done over four years at St Mary's. Good luck and God's speed in your new calling.

**Designated Family Corner**

One of the positive spin offs of having all our Church services in the Hall has been the increased number of families attending the 10.15am service with children of pre-school age. The siting of the children's corner at the front of the Hall meant that parents of these children felt more involved and in fact the children were better behaved! It was the unanimous view of the Vicar and PCC that when we went to Church, the Family Corner would continue to be in a prominent position at the front of the nave. The right hand side when looking east and facing the altar was the natural place as the stain glassed windows all alluded to children. The provision of a large carpet and soft toys and appropriate church orientated reading books is now attracting new families with small children. This is one of our missions to encourage children and young parents to play an active part in church life.

**Junior Church**

Junior Church continues to run happily and successfully during the 10.15am service on the first, third and fifth Sundays of each month (the uniform parade service being held on the second Sunday). Many parents support Junior Church by remaining for the service and there is a continuous influx of young children wishing to join when they reach four years of age.

Several times during the year, the children prepare and display their work on a notice board. They enjoy doing this and it has been the subject of favourable comments from our parishioners and visitors. Leaders of Junior Church have taken on the responsibility for the construction of the Easter Garden and the Christmas Crib each year.

We are becoming victims of our own success! Now we are back in church, both the vestries in the 1956 extension to the church are overflowing with the older children being in the choir vestry and the younger ones in the former churchwarden's vestry. It is a nice problem to have but one which we are addressing.

**Confirmation**

Confirmation classes for young people started in April 2011 and some 15 young people undertook training on a Sunday afternoon in church. In additional three adults indicated that they too wished to be confirmed and undertook training separately. We were very pleased when the Diocesan Bishop (Bishop Nicholas) said he would carry out the confirmation and this took place on Sunday 16th October. The Bishop stated he was most impressed with the young people, their knowledge and attitude. The Bishop joined the congregation for refreshments after the service and he also had an opportunity to look around the church at first hand following the re-ordering. He stated that he was very impressed with the outcome and the positive attitude and how welcoming the church was. He congratulated all concerned for sticking at it particularly when a 19 week re-ordering project lasted 21 months!

**"Euphoria" our Music Group**

In 2005 our then Curate Alexandra and a number of interested adults from the parish attended a full day's workshop in our Church Hall which was run by our two Diocesan Youth Advisers. In the afternoon a number of young people joined the adults and the underlying desire was for the young people to be allowed to express themselves through music and taking part in special services at Church. From this was born a church music group consisting of both young people and adults. The group selected the name "Euphoria" and they have performed at church on some of the Sundays when it has been a church parade for the uniform youth organizations as well as on other special occasions such as the Christingle and the children's nativity service.

**Church Schools**

Outreach in this direction continues to make progress at both of our Church of England Primary Schools of Howick and Cop Lane.

As part of our on-going commitment to our Church Schools, we continue to purchase sufficient bibles to enable each child in year three, at both Howick and Cop Lane Schools, to be presented with their own copy to use for the remaining four years at their primary school and then to take with them when they move onto secondary education.

Cop Lane school's presentations took place at the school with Foundation (church) Governors, the Vicar and Churchwardens attended with family and friends of those children receiving a Bible. The occasion was very much appreciated by parents, staff and the children themselves. The whole school attended church in late September for their Easter celebrations and thoroughly enjoyed the new lay out and extra space to be able to perform.

Howick School decided that the whole school would attend church on a Friday afternoon in December for their version of a "Festival of Nine Lessons with Carols" during which the bibles would be presented. The church was packed with children, parents and other relatives plus one of the churchwarden and some parishioners. The ability to be flexible in the layout of the church proved to be most successful with nothing but positive comments being expressed. The school have indicated that they want to make this an annual event at church.

The Vicar leads collective worship periodically at each of our two church primary schools. Leaders of other religious faiths also go into the schools as does one of the Churchwardens from time to time.

The Vicar is an ex-officio Governor at both of our Church Primary Schools in the Parish. Iain Jenkins is a trustee on the Penwortham Foundation and Hazel Henebury was our Foundation Governor at Hutton Grammar School, both replacing our Vicar.

## 5. VOLUNTEERS

The Church Regulations require that any ***"substantial voluntary help"*** must be recorded in their Annual Report. There is a small group of active parishioners who give of their services in running the Church Hall, financial management, general maintenance and administration. The Parish is very fortunate to have such people who are prepared to continue to give so much of their time and talents for the benefit of the Parish. Our Vicar continues to say this publically on all occasions. We are required by the Regulations to state if any member of the PCC has received any payment for their services during the course of the year. We report that David and Rachel Tuke are members of the bell-ringing team and their fees are in accordance with those approved by the PCC.

## 6. SOCIAL & FUNDRAISING

We continue to hold a variety of events, some of which are purely for social interaction, whilst others are to make money – all of which is ploughed back for the benefit of the Parish.

Our 'Farmers' Market' continues to be held on the first Saturday of every month at the Church Hall and we celebrate our 9th anniversary on the first Saturday of May this year (2012). Due to our continuing publicity and despite hard economic times, it remains successful with many people from the community (and further a-field) coming on a regular basis. A small group of volunteers again remove all the chairs and then set up the tables on the Friday and put the main hall back to normal on the Saturday after the Market for another let later in the day. It is a worthwhile venture as we receive around £400 in rent every month which goes into the church coffers. We continue to be granted permission each year to hold our Market by Preston City Council which holds a Charter and legislation going back to the 17th century. This requires all Markets to be approved if they are less than six and two thirds of a mile from the centre of Preston which we are!!

Other social events which took place included a Beetle Drive. All were intended to break even but in each case a small profit ranging from £55 to £300 was made which again was ploughed back into the church coffers. We must also thank Jennifer Williams and Tony for agreeing to host a Garden Party at their home for a second year. Many parishioners helped to set up the day before and were involved in running the various stalls on the day. Our local MP Lorraine Fulbrook officially opened the event and again a brass band from Blackpool was the main attraction. A very pleasurable day was had by one and all.

## 7. ECUMENICAL MATTERS

All eight churches in Penwortham form the Ecumenical Group – two are Church of England (St. Leonard's and ourselves), two are Methodist, two are Roman Catholic, one is the United Reform Church and the eighth is the King's Church (Free Methodists) which meets at Penwortham Girls High School. A series of monthly midday prayer services at different churches each time formed the main activities of the year. In addition they produced both a Christmas and Easter card detailing all the services being held over the Christian Festivals and each church. Each Parish has a responsibility for delivering to houses in various roads in Penwortham.

Just before Christmas, we took part in the second Lancashire interactive Christmas Carol Concert promoted by BBC Radio Lancashire. Some 85 people from all the churches in Penwortham gathered at Penwortham Golf Club to promote Christmas in the community. After the live broadcast many stayed on to have light refreshments. Other venues included the Preston Railway Station platform as well as the customary public houses.

All the churches were also involved both in the 2011 Good Friday procession of witness as well as the Penwortham Gala. There was a joint ecumenical service held on the Sunday of the Gala on the Field in Hurst Grange Park which was very successful and well attended and replaced our 10.15am Communion Service at church. There was no procession of witness on Good Friday in 2012 because of the Preston Passion which was very well supported by parishioners from all the churches in Penwortham. This was a very moving experience and was broadcasted live on BBC 1 television and Radio Lancashire to public acclaim.

## 8. PARISH FINANCES

The Statement of Financial Practice (SOFP) 2005 and the subsequent changes to the Church Accounting Practices have meant that the accounts have had to be prepared in a slightly different way.

David Tuke, who has financial skills being the treasurer of a local Gilbert & Sullivan Society for a number of years, was elected treasurer at our PCC meeting in November 2010 taking up his duties on 1st January 2011. The accounts have been prepared using specifically designed computer software for church accounting procedures and this year a great deal of time and effort has been put in by David to transfer all the information across onto the new system and to show comparisons with 2010's activities.

We were very fortunate that the 2010 accounts were independently examined by Susan Walsh for which the Parish thanked her. It was Susan who suggested we might like to use the new computer software available. Susan has kindly undertaken the independently examiner role again for 2011 accounts and we have been given a clear bill of health (her certificate is on page 11 of the Accounts Section). The accounts, balance sheet and notes to the accounts form part of the annual report and are shown on pages 1 -13 and will be explained by our treasurer at our Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) to be held on Sunday 29th April around 11.30am after the 10.15am service in Church.

## 9. CHILD / VULNERABLE ADULT PROTECTION & SAFE FROM HARM POLICY

We continue to adhere to our Safe from Harm Policy as we are committed to providing a safe environment for all children. To this end we have updated our Parish policy and Appendices this February and the latest version has been adopted by the PCC. The updated policy is based on the new format issued by the Diocese to be customized to suit individual parishes. The Appendices are based on the recommended forms also. They will continue to be updated annually as required.

We are in the process of putting forward volunteers for CRB checking and renewing the clearance for those who have had CRB clearance for more than three years.

As it is several years since we had a Child Protection training evening, Hazel Henebury, our under 18's co-ordinator, is hoping to hold a training session in the Autumn with the cooperation of the Diocesan Board of Education who will provide the expertise.

The Diocese has also issued a policy for Safeguarding adults. We are in the process of adapting this. Whilst a Child Protection Policy is a statutory requirement, the policy for Vulnerable Adults (all people aged 18 years and over) is based on guidelines for good practice. It is based on the '*Promoting a Safe Church'* booklet available from Church House Publishing. When this document has been personalized to suit the needs of St Mary's it will be displayed in the Church and Church Hall alongside the policy relating to safeguarding children.

## 10. CHURCH PROPERTY AND LAND

### Church Land Boundary

Our church land extends both sides of Church Avenue from the Lych Gate as far as Squires Road and then down the bridle path to Liverpool Road. The boundary then runs down the hill on Liverpool Road

skirting around the back of the War Memorial returning to the roadside at the bottom of the hill and then alongside the pavement edge of the slip road onto the Penwortham by pass as far as Holme Road. The whole of this area makes up Church Wood. The church land then extends down along Holme Road to the end of the old Victorian graveyard and then up the dry beck between the graveyard and the houses on Castle Walk from Holme Road to the end of Hollinhurst Road incorporating the perimeter of the new graveyard and Crow Wood finishing up on Church Avenue close to the Lych Gate.

### Maintenance of Churchyard Grounds and Land

A dedicated band of volunteers again maintain our churchyard and extensive grounds. There are no salary costs to maintain all this land so the actual expenditure is minimal with the only cost being for materials. The team meet almost every other Saturday morning throughout the year and more frequently in the summer months. Numerous compliments have been received from regular churchgoers as well as those who only attend for baptisms, weddings and funerals. The team's efforts have been recognized with an award for one of the best kept graveyard and church grounds.

All the remaining plots along the new memorial wall have been allocated. In 2004 the diocese authorized us to prepare the ground adjacent to the rest of the wall for the burial of loose ashes in the soil in plots. This land had a number of large tree stumps which had first to be removed but the soil has now been grass seeded and we have a small contract with a local company to enhance this grassed area as well as the other grassed area in front of the Church. This land is now being used for its purpose.

### Castle Hill – Scheduled Ancient Monument

Within the actual churchyard we have Castle Hill, a scheduled ancient monument, which is the site of a former Norman Motte and Bailey Castle. It had become overgrown over the years, and it had been the Church's wish to clear the vegetation and trees to restore Castle Hill to its former glory. Being a scheduled ancient monument, we had discussions with English Heritage resulting in one of their field workers meeting the Churchwardens and Vicar on site in December 2007. Prior to her visit we had cleared some of the vegetation and self seeded saplings so English Heritage were extremely pleased with the progress we had made. They wholeheartedly supported us in our desire to restore the ancient monument which would mean cutting down the rest of the larger trees on the mound and removing the rest of the saplings and vegetation. Even though Castle Hill is within the Tree Preservation Area restoring the ancient monument to its former glory takes precedence. For the last few years and now into 2012, Bill Henebury, James Barton and Greg Hodgkinson continue to use their skills with chain saws to fell a

number of very large trees and then saw them up and remove everything off site. Other vegetation has been removed and the Church side of Castle Hill is now totally clear. This is down entirely to James, Bill and Greg who intend to carry on and hopefully cut down the rest of the trees on Castle Hill by the end of this year when it will be restored to its' former glory. Well done to all of you and thanks!

During 2011, Bill Henebury carried out his annual inspection of all the graves checking on their stability. The Diocese has issued guidelines on what parishes have to do and their responsibilities regarding

safety. The maintenance of each grave is the responsibility of the family / next of kin of those buried there. Where the headstone is not secure, it has had to be laid down on safety grounds.

## Church Hall Land

Three times a year, the Churchyard maintenance team moves its' allegiances to the Hall in order to keep the land surrounding the Hall in reasonable condition.

The land around the Church Hall continues to attract interest to property speculators. It is all Glebe land and will not be allowed to be used for any other purpose. The express written permission of the Vicar has to be given and then approved by the Diocese for any change of use. Marked out and signed car parking bays are rented out during working hours on weekdays and the church finances benefit to the tune of £5,500 in the year.

## The Church Building itself

### a) Quinquennial Inspection

Every five years a full report (quinquennial report) on the condition and fabric of the church has to be carried out by a diocesan approved qualified architect. The last report was done in 2004 and we had carried out all the recommendations listed prior to the church closing in September 2009. Our next Inspection was scheduled for that year but due to the major work on the reordering of the church due to start, the Archdeacon agreed that this should be deferred until we returned to church. In March, 2012 our Architect, Stephen Fish, carried out a full quinquennial inspection and as yet we have not yet received his written report. However, he has informed us verbally that there is nothing of any significance which needs urgently to be addressed.

### b) Removal of built in Organ

A faculty is being submitted to remove the organ from the loft above the west door. The diocesan organ adviser has agreed that the current organ installed in the late 1950's is past "its' sell by date" but we have to obtain a faculty before it can be removed. A church in Sierra Leone has expressed an interest in having our organ and console and Jardines, the organ builders, have agreed to remove the organ and console and ship it to Sierra Leone once formal permission to remove it from our church has been granted. We intend that this will take place prior to the 300th anniversary of bells being installed at our Church which is at the end of June 2012. The removal of the organ loft will open up the church and enable light from the west window to enter the church nave. Our current portable organ is not classed as a permanent structure and will be used until we have sufficient fund to replace it with a modern digital organ.

### c) Disabled Toilet

Another of the conditions attached to the re-ordering was the provision of a disabled toilet in the 1950's extension. This was installed during the year and the door now opens outwards onto the corridor to enable easier access by a wheelchair. The toilet is now fully compliant with the Disabled Discrimination Act.

**d) Refreshment facilities:**

In January of this year a sink and kitchen units have been installed in the corridor of the 1950's extension close to the door leading into the nave of the church. At the same time a sink and single kitchen unit has been installed in the Rawstorne Room (choir vestry). The rest of the restricted fund in memory of Vic Selby has been used to part fund this work. A wall mounted water heater and the cost of its fitting above the work top in the corridor of the 1950's extension has been donated by a parishioner. Potential health and safety issues have now been resolved with these latest additions. Now the stand alone water boilers no longer need to be used at church.

**e) Oak Panelling – East end of the Chancel**

Part of the re-ordering consisted of removing the raised wooden platform which was the sanctuary at the east end of the chancel. This meant that there was a gap of about 24 inches at the bottom of the existing wood panelling to the new floor level. The removal of the cast iron old fashioned radiator under the east end window in the chancel left a large gap under the window with the original oak panelling on each side.

The PCC decided that new panelling in the same design as the existing should be installed under the east window as well as below the existing panelling on each side where the raised sanctuary had been formerly sited. Ormsby's of Scarisbrick submitted a tender which was accepted and the new oak panelling was installed just before Christmas 2011. In January of this year the family of the late Rosemary Lawson very kindly agreed to use the money donated to the church in her memory to help fund this project. The PCC also agreed to have engraved in the wooden panels, the names of those Forces personnel who died in enemy action during the 2nd World War. They will then be alongside those who died during the 1st World War who names are already engraved.

All other aspects of the church building have been dealt with in detail at the beginning of this review.

**The Church Hall**

As previously mentioned, the Church Hall will require essential refurbishment in the coming year. The main hall's sloping roof will have to be re-felted as three leaks developed during the year and temporary repairs were affected. All the flat roofs over the other rooms are now prone to letting in water when the wind and rain is in one particular direction. They will have to be converted into sloping roofs and then felted.

The Community at large hire a room or rooms at the Church Hall on more than 85% of occasions whilst the church organisations account for the remaining 15% of the bookings. The Church itself used the Hall for church services over the 20 months the church was closed. We continue to use rooms for committee meetings and social/fund raising events. If costed out this would have amounted to some £3128 last year which, without the Church Hall, the Church would have had to find.

The building is extensively used and will be subject of an industrial clean and then certain areas re-painted and refurbished. The building is looking "tired" but all our efforts and finances for the last few years have been targeted at the church. This coming year, we shall be asking volunteers to bring the Hall back up to scratch.

## 11. THE FUTURE

Any ongoing issues which have run into 2012 up to 5th April have already been documented in the relevant sections.

For the rest of 2012, we have two concerts booked in Church one in April and the other in May. On Sunday 3rd June we will be taking part in the National Queens' Jubilee Big Lunch and the following evening we will be lighting a beacon on top of the Church Tower again as part of a nationally co-ordinated plan to have at least 2012 beacons lit at the same time across the whole of the Country.

On Saturday 30th June parishioners will attend Blackburn Cathedral to witness and support Rebecca Crowe who is to be our new Stipendiary Curate. She, with others, will be made a Deacon by the Bishop of Blackburn and the following day she will take part in our Sunday services. After the 10.15am service, light refreshments will be provided by the Parish so we can more informally welcome her to her new ministry.

On the afternoon on Saturday 30th June, our bell ringers will perform to mark the 300th anniversary of bells being rung in our church. This will be followed by a special church service and refreshments. Invitations are being sent out to all who have been involved in previous years. The following day a special peal will be undertaken.

Finally as this is Guild year, the Church will be involved in the festivities during the first week of September but more about all these events will be reported on in next year's annual report.

Chris Nelson — David Thornton

Vicar & Chair of the PCC — Churchwarden & Vice Chair of the PCC

16th April, 2012.